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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, Maker of heaven and Earth, open our minds to the call of love that we may measure our attitudes and responses by this standard. Deliver us from the delusion that we are self-made and increase our dependence upon You.

Bless our Senators. May they give attention to their personal health and family relationships, as they seek to be Your instruments for good. Remind them that You alone, O Lord, have the wisdom and power needed at this critical hour. Assure them of Your presence, love, and grace in their labors. Give them fresh strength and vision, as You renew them by the power of Your spirit.

We pray in the Name of him in whom is all power in heaven and on Earth. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and the remarks of Senator MCCONNELL, if he chooses to make some, there will be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. At 3 p.m., the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, the highway technical corrections bill. At 5:30, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the highway bill.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY SERGEANT TIMOTHY SMITH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, amidst a great war that threatened to tear apart the fabric of our Nation, Abraham Lincoln gazed upon a battlefield and was moved to say:

My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope on earth.

Mr. President, on Monday, April 7, U.S. Army SGT Timothy Smith gave his life in pursuit of that dream. Sergeant Smith was 25 years old.

While serving in Iraq with the 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th

Mountain Division, Sergeant Smith was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near the armored vehicle in which he was riding with SGT Brandon Lords.

Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Lords were brothers in arms, and they had made a pact that if one was lost in combat, the other would escort his body home. Sergeant Lords will honor that promise by accompanying his fallen comrade's body to South Lake Tahoe, where he will be received by his beloved family and friends before he is laid to rest.

Both Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Lords were emblematic of the courageous young men and women who serve in the U.S. military. My words are certainly insufficient to fully express our gratitude for their valor. Our hearts and prayers are with Tim's family.

Thursday night, at about 7 o'clock Washington time, I called and spoke to Michael, Tim's father. We had a very nice visit. I expressed my sympathy, and I said to Michael: You know, I have four boys, and I cannot comprehend what you are going through at this time. We talked for quite a long time, and he said, "Before you hang up, would you talk to Timmy's brother Tommy?" I said that I would be happy to. He was right there. So I talked to him for quite a long time. I told Tommy that I could appreciate what he was going through because I was one of four brothers. My brother Dale died unexpectedly in his midforties. I expressed to Tommy how, even today—on that Thursday night—I would like to be able to talk to my brother Dale, even though it has been more than two decades ago that he died. I can see in one of my boys my brother Dale's smile and the way he walks. So I could empathize much better with Tommy than I could with his dad.

We talked for quite a long time and he said, "Would you talk to Jackie?" That is their sister. We had a wonderful visit, talking about how sorry they

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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